Proposal fo amend Anti-Defection Act

958. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Anti-Defection Act; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The Committee which has been constituted to examine, inter-alia, various aspects of anti-defection law has suggested certain amendments to the law. The matter is under consideration.

Recommendations of Law Minister's Conference regarding pending cases in courts

959. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND Justice be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Law Minister's Confrence about producing arrears of pending cases; and

(b) what follow up steps Govern ment are taking in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHA RGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DI-
NESH GOSWAMI): (a) The Law Minister's Conference held in July 1990 inter alia suggeste'd proper-screening Of cases to be filled by Government; Careful screening of section 80 CPO Notices to redress genuine grievances of citizens at that stage itself, adherence to principles of natural justice in administration encouragement of institution of Lok Adalats, expeditious filling up of vacancies in judiciary and modernisation of judicial administration.

(b) The suggestion would be examined for their implementation.

Reduction in the overhead cost added to C.I.F. cost of imported edible oils by the STC

960. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MA-THUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the overhead cost added to the c.i.f. cost of imported edible oils by the State Trading Corporation including storage charges etc. before these are sent for packing and distribution to traders for sale; and

(b) whether Government propose to re-duce the charges so that ihe benefit could be passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) As per audited accounts of STC for the year 1989-90, the recovery towards overhead was at the rate of Rs. 259/- plus Rs. 36/- towards service margin aggregating to Rs. 293/- PMT of the oil sold.

(b) STC's service margin dt 1 per cent of the landed cost of purchase charged till 1988-89, was reduced to 0.5 pe_r cent of the cif cost of Sales from 1989-90.

Advances made by SBI to Indian Express group of newspapers

961. SHRl RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR;

SHRIMATI MANORAMA , PANDEY;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has advanced Rs. 3.5 crore to the Indian Express Newspapers (Bombya) Pvt Ltd. any security against all banking norms; and - -

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the bank officials responsible for this lapse?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI); (a) and (b) State Bank of